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ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/23 of 24 November 1993 on a zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic in which, inter alia, it took note of the report of the Secretary-General in accordance with its resolution 47/74 of 14 December 1992 (A/48/531), as well as the Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic which was held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 October 1993 (A/48/581, annex).

2. The General Assembly welcomed the initiatives leading to the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco); 1/ noted with interest the progress made in the drafting of a treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, and stressed the relevance of such a treaty to the advancement of the objectives and principles of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

3. The General Assembly took note of the proposal for negotiation among the South Atlantic countries of an appropriate instrument on marine protection as a complement to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 2/ and as a follow-up to the relevant parts of Agenda 21, particularly chapter 17, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 4 June 1992. 3/ The Assembly also stressed the importance for the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 4/ and the programmes set forth in Agenda 21, as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 5/ and the Convention on Biological Diversity, 6/ in the conviction that their implementation would strengthen the basis for cooperation within the zone and for the benefit of the international community as a whole.

4. In the same resolution, the General Assembly affirmed the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and its determination to preserve the region for all activities protected by relevant international law, including the freedom of navigation on the high seas; and welcomed the agreement reached between the Governments of Namibia and South Africa setting 28 February 1994 as the date for the transfer and reintegration of Walvis Bay and the offshore islands to Namibia in accordance with Security Council resolution 432 (1978) of 27 July 1978.

5. The Assembly noted with interest the hope expressed by the countries of the zone to welcome in the near future a united non-racial democratic South Africa into the community of South Atlantic States, and in that connection urged all parties concerned in South Africa to continue negotiations leading to the establishment of a united non-racial democratic South Africa; and expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the international community, especially the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions aimed at achieving a permanent resolution of the conflicts in Angola and Liberia.

6. In paragraph 16 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance which States of the zone might seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

7. It further requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by Member States.

8. Pursuant to the above resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale on 22 March 1994 to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations, requesting their views on the implementation of the declaration on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

9. Pursuant to paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 48/23 letters were dispatched on 15 March 1994 to the organizations and bodies of the United Nations requesting them to convey their contributions for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General by 1 August 1994.

10. Communications received from those institutions are set out in section III of the present report.

11. As at 30 September 1994, four Governments had replied to the Secretary-General. Any further replies and notifications that may be received at a later date will be published as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

A. Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

[14 September 1994]

1. The Government of Argentina wishes to place on record its eagerness to enhance the climate of harmony and cooperation among the southern cone countries of America, which has made it possible to consolidate a framework of peace and stability in that part of the world.

2. Within this context, the progress made in relations between Argentina and Brazil in the field of nuclear policy is particularly significant.

3. The policy of transparency in nuclear matters continues to be implemented effectively through the full functioning of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), which is making valuable efforts to promote compliance with the bilateral agreements in force in that field.

4. The full accession of Argentina, Chile and Brazil to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) has likewise been a very important step whose practical effects will be felt in enhanced regional security.

5. The non-proliferation of chemical weapons is also important for the Government of Argentina, which is actively involved in the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

6. Argentina and other countries of the region are engaged in a process of ongoing consultation, in the spirit of the Mendoza Accord, with a view to taking all necessary steps to ensure the early entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

7. In addition, since the Government of Argentina has acceded to the export control systems in force in all the relevant technological areas and participates in the mechanisms that exist for exchanges of military information, it welcomes the gradual incorporation of member countries into such systems and mechanisms.

8. In connection with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 45/36 of 27 November 1990, the Government of Argentina wishes to reiterate that there has been no change in the situation described in paragraph 3 of its reply at the forty-sixth session (A/46/410), which stated:

> attention should be drawn to the persistence in the South Atlantic of a colonial situation in the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, which affects the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic. The process of normalizing relations between my country and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of which the Secretary-General and the General Assembly of the United Nations have been kept duly informed, has not yet resolved the issue of sovereignty with regard to this colonial occupation.

Resolving this crucial issue would permit the definitive consolidation of stability and cooperation in the South Atlantic.

B. Brazil

[Original: English]

[4 August 1994]

1. The Government of Brazil believes that the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic represents a dynamic framework for the promotion of peace and development in a fast evolving region of the globe. Since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 41/11, the zone has contributed to foster cooperation in economic, environmental and other matters on both sides of the South Atlantic.

2. The Government of Brazil warmly welcomes the full participation of the democratic and non-racial South Africa in the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic at the next meeting of this forum. The presence of South Africa attests to the vitality of the zone and the promising trend towards ever closer cooperation among the countries of the zone. Brazil is certain that the participation of South Africa will make a most valuable contribution to the achievement of the goals set out by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/11.

3. The end of ideological rivalries has brought about new challenges and opportunities which the countries of the zone intend to pursue with the cooperation of the international community as a whole. In this regard, it is with grave concern that the Government of Brazil notes the continuation of areas of tension, clouding the future of some countries in the region.

4. The Government of Brazil has been following with great attention and care the situation in Angola, a sister Portuguese-speaking country. The war in Angola has imposed a heavy toll on the civilian population and has brought about a humanitarian crisis of huge proportions. Brazil believes that it is only through the full implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council and a full commitment to the successful conclusion of the Lusaka talks that a just and lasting solution can be achieved.

5. The Government of Brazil is also deeply concerned with the crisis in Liberia. It notes that preparations for national elections have been hampered by the continuing fighting and virtual halt of the disarmament process. It regrets that the elections originally scheduled to take place on 7 September 1994 will have to be postponed, since the disarmament process is an essential prerequisite for the holding of free and fair elections. The Government of Brazil is of the view that all factions in Liberia must demonstrate their commitment to the implementation of the goals of national reconciliation. One cannot fail to commend the gigantic efforts undertaken by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Cease-fire Monitoring Group and the countries that have contributed troops to this effort under trying domestic constraints. It is vital that the international community provide adequate financial and material support for this commendable effort.

6. One of the most important objectives pursued within the framework of the zone is the denuclearization of the South Atlantic. In our efforts to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, it would be essential that all Member States of the zone take effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. The efforts made towards the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa and towards the conclusion of a treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, and the progress towards the early entry into force of the Treaty of Tlatelolco for all States in Latin America and the Caribbean, bear testimony to the unswerving commitment of the Member States of the zone to the cause of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

7. The members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic also remain deeply committed to environmental cooperation. In this connection, Brazil is sponsoring an initiative among the South Atlantic countries on the

implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and on parts of Agenda 21 that are relevant to the sea. The main purpose of the initiative would be to ensure that all Member States of the zone protect and preserve the marine environment through the adoption of appropriate measures, as well as to strengthen the efforts towards the achievement of the social and economic benefits of the sustainable development of the sea.

8. It is with satisfaction that the Government of Brazil notes the importance of the results of the Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, held in New York in October 1993. In this regard, it is worth quoting paragraph 2 of the Declaration issued at the end of the meeting, which reads: "The Ministers reviewed the international situation since the end of the cold war and reiterated the continuing validity of the Zone as a relevant and viable instrument of multilateral cooperation among its members and reaffirmed the capacity of the forum to contribute to the promotion of international peace and security" (A/48/581, annex).

9. With a view to giving a renewed momentum to the zone, Brazil will be hosting this year the third Meeting of Member States in Brasilia. The Government of Brazil believes that much could be accomplished to advance the purposes of the zone. In this vein, three main areas have been identified by Brazil that might be considered by the participants: (a) marine environment cooperation; (b) denuclearization; and (c) business cooperation. The Government of Brazil wishes to express its sincere hope that this meeting will serve its objective that the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic will achieve, as a regional mechanism, the full measure of its potentialities.

10. The peaceful purposes of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic should be emphasized. This initiative constitutes a common effort towards the enhancement of the intraregional links and understanding between and among West African and South American countries and has gained virtually unanimous support by the membership at large of the United Nations. Brazil's commitment to the zone remains as strong as ever.

C. Nigeria

[Original: English]

[29 July 1994]

1. The Government of Nigeria remains committed to the principles and objectives of the Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic and reaffirms its belief in the concept as a veritable instrument for promoting international peace and security as well as development cooperation. It notes that recent developments, including the abolition of apartheid and the emergence of a democratic non-racial Government in South Africa, the reintegration of Walvis Bay into Namibia, the re-establishment of normal relations and other confidence-strengthening measures between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, among others, have contributed to the lessening of tension in the South Atlantic

and therefore provided a more propitious environment for the attainment of the objectives of the zone.

2. As a mark of its commitment, Nigeria hosted the second conference on the zone, which was held in Abuja from 25 to 29 June 1990. The wide-ranging agreements and understanding reached at the conference are in the process of implementation. Nigeria, as current Coordinator, convened a Ministerial Meeting of Member States of the Zone during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly with a view to accelerating the pace of implementation. The Declaration of that Ministerial Meeting (published as an official document of the United Nations in A/48/581) not only reaffirmed Nigeria's commitments but sought to reinvigorate efforts towards fulfilling its obligations and these collective aspirations.

3. The third conference on the zone has been scheduled to be held at Brasilia, Brazil in September 1994. It will consider, among other things, a draft agreement and declarations designed to give effect to the objectives of the zone in the areas of protection of the marine environment, denuclearization, trade, and technical and scientific cooperation.

D. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]

[12 August 1994]

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomes the objectives of General Assembly resolution 48/23 of 24 November 1993, which are to promote peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic. In this regard, the British Government wishes to draw the attention of the Secretary-General to positive developments in relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina which have contributed to the lessening of tension in the South West Atlantic. In particular, there has been continuing progress in bilateral cooperation on fisheries (notably the parallel closure of the Illex Fishery) which has contributed to the conservation of stocks. Confidence-strengthening measures agreed to at the Madrid talks in February 1990 and further modified in September 1991 and July 1993 have also contributed to the stability of the region. Both these measures have helped to avoid the possibility of incidents in the military sphere.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Department of Public Information

1. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 48/23 was highlighted by the Department's daily news programmes for broadcasting organizations worldwide and received emphasis in its press release service on 24 November 1993. The action taken by the General Assembly was widely publicized through the network of United Nations information centres and services.

2. In compliance with the resolution, questions relating to the purpose and objective of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic have been the subject of 575 radio magazine programmes produced in 11 languages and distributed to about 800 broadcasting organizations world wide.

3. In addition, the Department produced and distributed 40 publications, such as backgrounders, booklets, posters and newsletters - totalling 314,000 copies in English, French and Spanish - on issues relating to, among others, the establishment of a united, non-racial democratic South Africa, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the United Nations role in Angola, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the World Summit for Social Development.

4. To further international efforts towards the total eradication of apartheid and support for the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa, the Department organized a seminar on the image of the United Nations in South Africa in Cape Town in February 1994. Designed as a forum for open discussion on future relations between the United Nations system and the new South Africa, the seminar focused on the country's educational system and the new generation of South African youth. Sponsored jointly by the Department and the University of the Western Cape, with funding assistance from the Special Committee against Apartheid and UNESCO, the seminar brought together some 30 South African scholars, educators, textbook writers, historians and policy makers, as well as specialists from the United Nations system.

5. The News Coverage Service produced 412 press releases in English and 383 in French. Two hundred and sixty-four press releases, background notes and fact sheets of relevance to the issues emphasized in the resolution on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, as well as on meetings of intergovernmental bodies, have been transmitted by both electronic mail and pouch to 212 United Nations information centres and other offices of the United Nations system around the world, as well as through publicly accessible databases, such as Agora, APC, Gemnet, Togethernet and through UNDP gopher to Internet.

6. Through their newsletters, all United Nations information centres have drawn attention to the efforts of the international community with regard to the establishment of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and its objectives. Commemorations, such as UN Day, provided important opportunities for information centres and other United Nations field offices to bring to the attention of large audiences the activities of the United Nations on the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa, the United Nations role in Angola and Liberia, as well as the importance of major United Nations conferences and the interrelationship between them. The information centres in Asuncion, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Rio de Janeiro, Washington and Windhoek, and the United Nations Information Service at Geneva, as part of their regular activities, have highlighted matters related to the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic in press briefings, meetings with non-governmental organizations, film screenings and through public inquiries.

7. The interrelationship between major United Nations conferences and the objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic was the

subject of 164 briefings for groups visiting Headquarters and 12 briefings at Headquarters for representatives of non-governmental organizations with a total participation of 22,500 people.

8. In cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Department organized an exhibit of children's drawings set up for display at the Headquarters Exhibit Gallery.

9. Eight productions of the television programme "World Chronicle" and four productions of the television series "UN in Action" have been devoted to substantive issues of relevance to the resolution. Guest speakers featured in those programmes included the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in South Africa, the Director-General of UNESCO and the executive coordinators or Preparatory Committee chairmen of United Nations conferences.

10. In support of the coming into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the following have been or will be produced by the Department: a special information kit containing substantive backgrounders, press releases, press summary and a UN Focus article (English, French and Spanish); a booklet on the law of the sea; one issue of "UN in Action"; an update of the video documentary "The Sea Law" in Arabic, English, French and Spanish; promotional radio programmes preceding the establishment of the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea; and on-site radio coverage of the launching of the Authority and the Tribunal. The News Coverage Service will have a team in Jamaica producing press releases, in English and French, on the first session of the Assembly of the International Sea-Bed Authority. United Nations information centres will arrange for the local adaptation, production and distribution of press summaries.

B. Office of Legal Affairs

1. The Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs, in cooperation with the Instituto Oceanográfico of Brazil, organized a national training course for Brazil on the integrated management of coastal and marine areas for sustainable development in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 9 to 20 May 1994. The course, which is an output of the Division's work programme on training, was a follow-up activity to Agenda 21, chapter 17, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which responds particularly to paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 48/23 on the South Atlantic.

2. The course, the first of its kind in Latin America, had initially been designed by the Division as a new prototype course which was adapted to suit the specific needs of Brazil.

3. The overall objective of the course was to strengthen the technical and managerial capacity of the trainees to administer activities affecting ocean and coastal development.

4. The participants consisted of an excellent group of young professionals (ranging in age between 30 and 40 years old) with wide experience in government,

the private sector, industry, technical institutions and universities. Their level of responsibility was middle-to-senior positions related to planning, management or field operations.

5. The selection of key themes and lecturers was a joint endeavour between staff members of the Division and the Instituto Oceanográfico. In designing the course, the Division attempted to ensure that an appropriate balance was maintained between examining issues that were representative of various parts of the country and providing an international perspective. In addition, the course aimed at a full understanding of the interaction and complementarity among all levels of decision-making (national, subnational and local) as well as the consideration of national vis-à-vis global concerns.

6. The Division provided technical support, which included advice on the design and organization of the course, the provision of one international coordinator/lecturer who prepared and delivered most of the lectures with an international perspective as well as running the simulation exercise, and the provision of documentation and materials for the course. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Brasilia provided the funds for the transport of documents and office materials from United Nations Headquarters in New York to Sao Paulo.

7. The tasks of the Instituto Oceanográfico included the promotion of the course at the national level (approximately 1,000 announcements were sent to governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, industry and research institutions), the sending of invitations to participating professors, and the printing of the brochure for the course.

8. The Instituto Oceanográfico also obtained financial assistance from various Brazilian organizations for the organization of the course. 7/

C. United Nations Environment Programme

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established "as a focal point for environmental action and coordination within the United Nations system".

2. Among the priority areas in which activities are to be developed, the Governing Council of UNEP has designated "oceans". In order to deal with the complexity of the environmental problems of the oceans in an integrated way, the Governing Council adopted a regional approach, as exemplified by its Regional Seas Programme. The Programme is under the overall coordination of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre of UNEP.

3. Each Regional Seas action plan, that is, the substantive part of any regional programme, is designed to link assessment of the quality of the marine environment and the causes of its deterioration with response actions for the management and development of the marine and coastal environment. The regional action plans promote the parallel development of regional legal agreements.

4. Two regional areas are of relevance to the resolution in question: the west and central African region and the south-west Atlantic.

The west and central African region

5. Two legal agreements have been adopted for the protection and development of the coastal and marine environment of the west and central African region. In considering the agreements, the comprehensive scope of environmental assessment and management activities carried out to support and make effective the States' legal commitments should be borne in mind.

6. After four years of preparatory activities, UNEP convened the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Cooperation in the Protection and Development of Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (WACAF) in Abidjan, from 16 to 23 March 1981. The Conference adopted an action plan for the west and central African region and two legal agreements, the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan, 1981), and the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency.

7. As at November 1993, the legal agreements have been signed and ratified by 10 coastal States of the region. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has been designated as the depository for the Convention and Protocol. UNEP has been designated as the secretariat. The Convention entered into force in 1984. The geographic coverage of the Action Plan includes 21 participating States: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zaire.

8. National focal points for the Action Plan were identified by each participating Government. They played a major role in the coordination, at the national level, of the implementation of programme priorities agreed by meetings of the Steering Committee and of the intergovernmental and the Contracting Parties meetings.

9. The Steering Committee, since its establishment in 1981, provided UNEP and the intergovernmental and Contracting Parties meetings with the necessary policy guidance for determining programme priorities.

10. A trust fund was established with the intention to cover the common costs of implementing the Action Plan and to replace gradually the support provided by the Environment Fund.

11. Five regional projects, dealing with contingency planning for marine pollution emergencies, monitoring and control of pollution in the marine environment; coastal erosion control, and development of national environmental legislation and its harmonization with the Abidjan Convention, were initiated at the request of the Governments of the region. These are being implemented in cooperation with United Nations bodies and involved national institutions and experts from the region.

12. As a result of ongoing activities, the following has been achieved:

(a) A review has been conducted of the legal aspects of marine environmental protection in the Gulf of Guinea and adjacent areas;

(b) A directory of marine research centres in Africa has been published;

(c) Twenty-three research or university institutes and laboratories from 10 countries were organized in a network of institutions for monitoring the quality of the marine environment. The first assessments of the state of marine and coastal waters in the west and central African region are available;

(d) Reports on the state of national legislation relevant to the protection of the marine environment have been prepared for Gabon and Ghana, with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

13. Technical assistance was provided to several Governments and national institutions in the region and a large number of their technical personnel were trained in subjects relevant to the Action Plan. This contributed considerably to the strengthening of national capabilities to respond to marine environmental problems of the region.

14. The support of FAO, IMO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, particularly in the preparatory phase leading to the adoption of the Action Plan, was generous, efficient and contributed significantly to the development and implementation of the Action Plan.

15. In the implementation of any regional programme, particularly one which involves developing countries, a major difficulty is the uneven level of technical capabilities of participating States and the frequent lack of infrastructure adequate for their effective participation in the programme. For this reason the need for training and technical assistance has been strongly emphasized in each of the main elements of the Action Plan.

16. Provision of training (in the form of both individual or group training) and technical support has been a major component of the various implemented or ongoing activities. Furthermore, UNEP has sponsored the participation of a number of individual experts from the west and central African region in training programmes not organized in the framework of, but relevant to, the Action Plan, such as the Workshop on the Conservation of Marine Mammals in West and Central Africa, held in Ghana from 21 to 25 April 1992.

17. Technical assistance has also been provided to the States of the region and their major institutions in the form of experts and in the supply of equipment and material needed for carrying out various projects and tasks.

18. In cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, a programme on environmental economics for the integrated management of coastal areas has been initiated in 1993 and a pilot study implemented to measure the contribution of the "ocean sector" to the gross national product of the Gambia.

19. Sixteen States participated in the last intergovernmental meetings held in Addis Ababa in November 1993: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zaire.

20. The third meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention, held at Addis Ababa on 26 November 1993, decided to endorse the recommendations of the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee of the WACAF Action Plan for the protection and development of the marine and coastal environment (Addis Ababa, 25 November 1993), and particularly to implement chapter 17 of Agenda 21 at the regional level to strengthen national capabilities for the integrated management of coastal areas, the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, the assessment of expected impacts of climate change and sealevel rise, and the assessment and control of marine pollution from land-based sources.

21. The Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention have also decided to strengthen, with the support of UNEP, the regional cooperation of States by establishing a UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit for the WACAF Action Plan in Abidjan.

22. The following States have been elected members of the WACAF Steering Committee of the Action Plan by the third meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention: Ghana (Chairman), Gambia and Guinea (Vice-Chairmen), Cape Verde and Namibia (Rapporteurs), Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Mauritania and Sao Tome and Principe.

23. The next meeting of the Steering Committee would be held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, in October-November 1994.

The south-west Atlantic region

24. In view of the recognized need to address coastal zone resources and management needs and priorities, in each country, discussions held with the Governments of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay in the course of 1993 have led to ongoing preparations for the convening of a workshop on integrated coastal area management.

25. The workshop will be held jointly by UNEP and IOC/UNESCO, with the participation of relevant international organizations, and will serve as a basis to assess the status and identify the priorities of each country concerning the marine environment.

The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals

26. The "protection of marine living resources" is, also by decision of the Governing Council of UNEP, one of the three components constituting its oceans programme. Recognizing the role and mandate of FAO, UNEP has concentrated on species and ecosystems that are not exploited commercially by fisheries. A large part of the activities undertaken within the framework of this component have concentrated on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals.

27. International law, as reflected in articles 65 and 120 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, refers to marine mammals as follows: "States shall cooperate with a view to the conservation of marine mammals and in the case of cetaceans shall in particular work through the appropriate international organizations for their conservation, management and study". Widespread concern for the future of marine mammals, formally expressed at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, was reiterated in chapter 17 of Agenda 21, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in articles 17.63 and 17.91: "States should cooperate for the conservation, management and study of cetaceans".

28. In line with the above, a number of activities are being or were supported during 1993 within this framework to assess the current status of threats to and value of marine mammals in several countries in west and central Africa and the south-west Atlantic. These activities include training courses and workshops on conservation, the publication of public awareness materials and technical reports, and field projects on the evaluation of fisheries interactions with marine mammals pertaining to several species.

D. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The activities of ECLAC during the reporting period revolved basically on the role of the zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic as a supporter of interregional cooperation on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the regulation of high-seas fisheries.

2. ECLAC has been urging regional implementation of both the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and General Assembly resolution 44/226 of 22 December 1989 on traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

3. One of the immediate areas for cooperation seems to be the coordination of mechanisms among regional commissions to monitor and prevent the illicit traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes. In future consultations among the regional commissions and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to implement this mechanism, ECLAC will stress the need to involve the zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic in these interregional efforts.

4. Furthermore, since Latin America is gradually moving towards a regional agreement on the ban of imports of hazardous wastes into the region, fruitful cooperation in the context of the zone may be the establishment of links between this future regional agreement and the Bamako Convention on the Ban of Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa in force among African countries.

5. ECLAC has strongly encouraged the dissemination among African countries of the zone of the regional position articulated before the recently concluded United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. In this regard, all the documentation pertaining to these activities is being translated into English for ease of reference, and will be transmitted to the Coordinator of the Conference through the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068.

2/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

4/ Ibid., resolution 1, annex I.

5/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

6/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

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